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PTQ2347

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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION EB-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EXIM-01	OIGO-00	E-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	L-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PM-00	ACE-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
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P 131545Z FEB 02
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6775
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
DIRONDCP WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
COMSOCSOUTH ROOSEVELT ROADS PR

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TAGS: EPET, MASS, SNAR, PTER, ASEC, CO
SUBJECT: SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS GET FIRST-HAND LOOK AT
- THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE

REF: BOGOTA 546

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON. REASON: 1.5(B)
AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) ON FEBRUARY 6, SENIOR U.S. AND COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS

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VISITED ARAUCA DEPARTMENT, SITE OF THE CANO LIMON OILFIELD AND ITS PIPELINE, WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY HIT BY GUERRILLA ATTACKS. THIS VISIT FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR USD 98 MILLION IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY. THE VISIT GAVE PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE DAMAGE DONE BY PIPELINE ATTACKS AND TO HEAR FROM SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS BASED IN THE AREA ABOUT CURRENT EFFORTS UPON WHICH ANY USG ASSISTANCE WOULD BUILD, AS WELL AS FROM OIL EXECUTIVES REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS RESOURCE TO COLOMBIA'S ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

HIGH LEVEL USG AND GOC PARTICIPATION

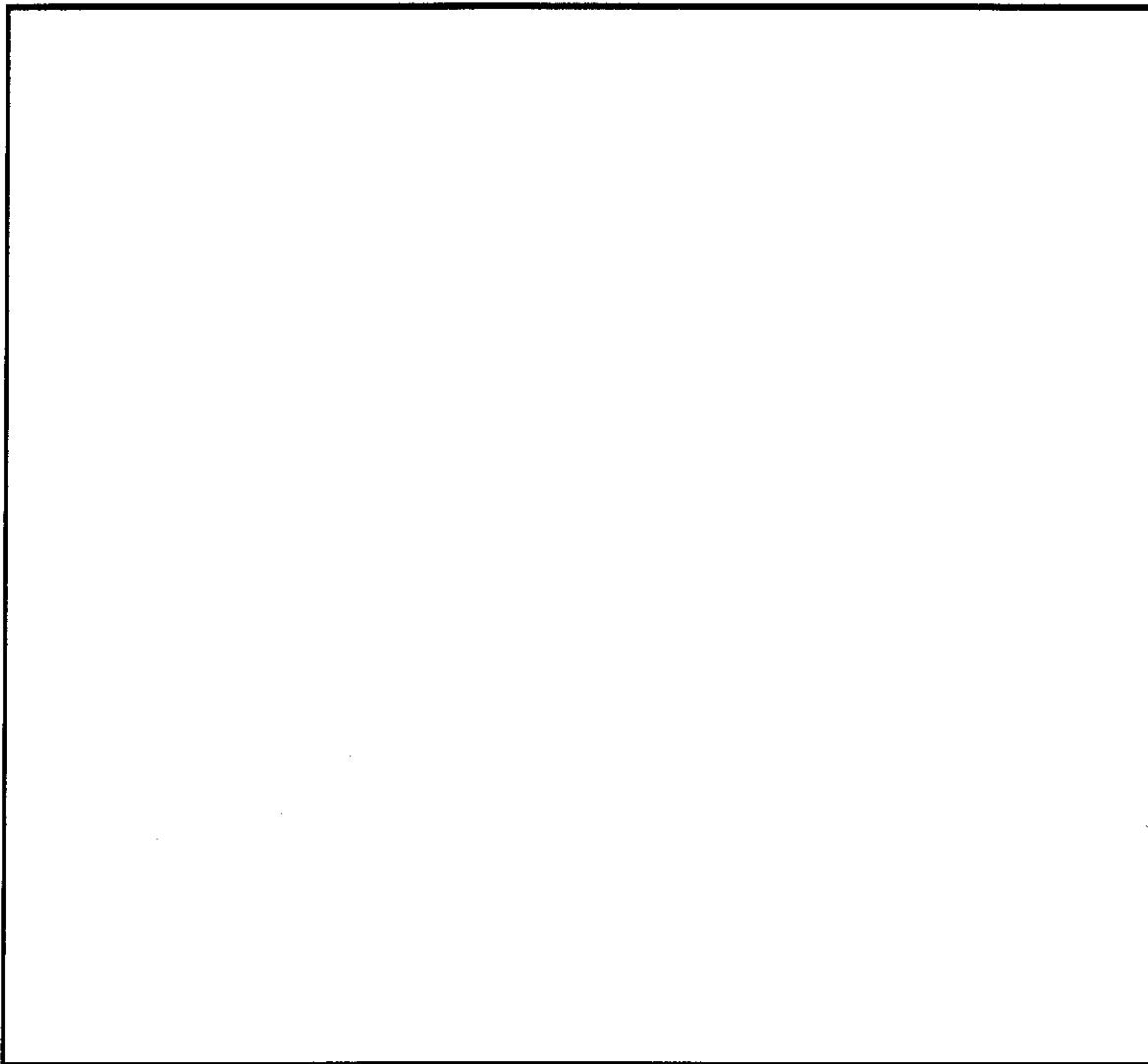
2. (U) FEBRUARY 6, INL A/S RAND BEERS, WHA DAS CURT
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STRUBLE, AND ONDCP DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SUPPLY SIDE BRAD HITTLE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS, VISITED MILITARY AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES IN ARAUCA DEPARTMENT. COLOMBIAN VICE PRESIDENT AND MINDEF BELL ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE VISIT AS DID ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GEN. TAPIAS, ARMY FIFTH DIVISION COMMANDER GENERAL CARRENO, ARMY 18TH BRIGADE COMMANDER GENERAL LEMUS, ARMED FORCES OPERATIONS DIRECTOR GENERAL BARBOSA, COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE COUNTER-NARCOTICS DIRECTOR GENERAL SOCHA, STATE OIL CONCERN ECOPETROL PRESIDENT CALDERON, AND BOTH COLOMBIA AND LOS ANGELES-BASED EXECUTIVES OF OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM.

MILITARY BRIEFING - THE WAR IN ARAUCA

2. (C) UPON ARRIVAL IN ARAUCA CITY, THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL, THE DELEGATION WENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY'S 18TH BRIGADE, AND WERE BRIEFED BY GENERAL CARRENO, UNDER WHOSE COMMAND THIS UNIT FALLS. GENERAL CARRENO LED OFF BY SAYING THAT THIS BRIGADE'S MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES WERE SECURING THE BORDER WITH VENEZUELA, CONFRONTING ILLEGAL GROUPS IN THE AREA, AND, ABOVE ALL MAINTAINING SECURITY FOR THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE, WHICH IS THREATENED BY THESE SAME ILLEGAL GROUPS.
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	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	L-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PM-00	ACE-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	DTC-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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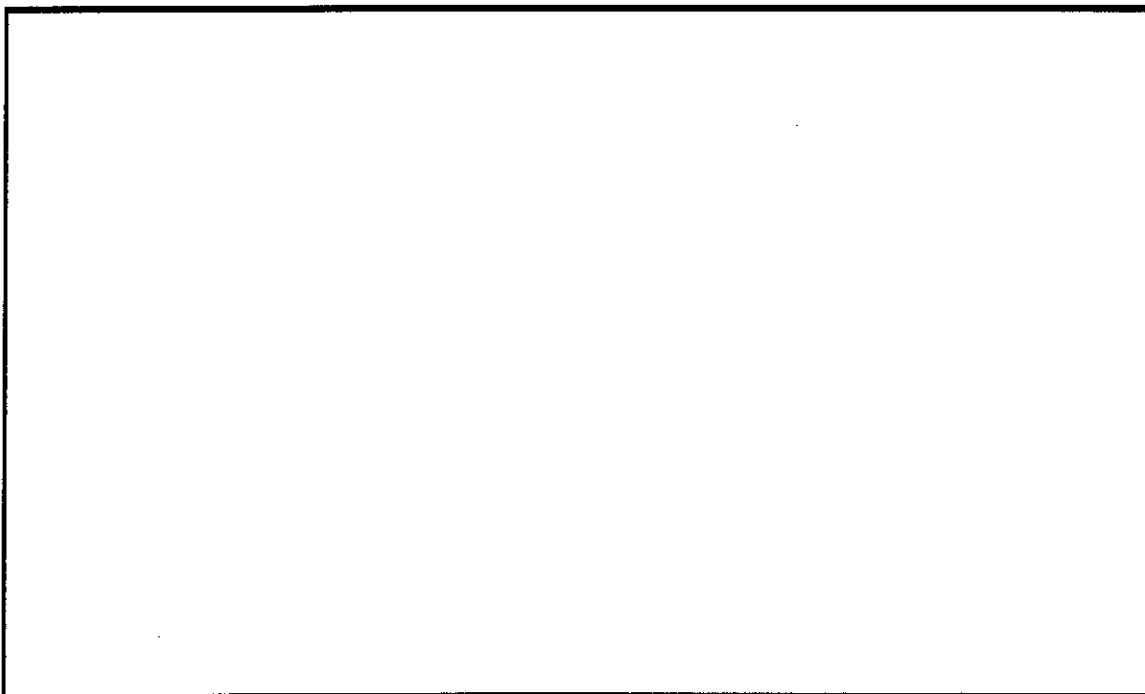
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6776
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
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ECOPETROL BRIEFING - OIL'S BIG PROBLEMS AND BIG PROSPECTS

6. (C) ALBERTO CALDERON, PRESIDENT OF STATE OIL CONCERN

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ECOPETROL, OCCIDENTAL'S PARTNER IN THE CANO LIMON FIELD
(WHICH OCCIDENTAL OPERATES) AND THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS
PIPELINE (WHICH ECOPETROL OPERATES) DISCUSSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF THESE ASSETS FOR COLOMBIA'S ECONOMY. HE
SUGGESTED THAT ONE NEEDED TO LOOK NOT ONLY AT OIL'S
IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO COLOMBIA (30 PCT OF ITS EXPORTS)
AND TO THE REGIONAL AND WORLD PETROLEUM BALANCE (IT IS
LATIN AMERICA'S THIRD LARGEST PRODUCER) BUT AT THE SECTOR'S
FUTURE POTENTIAL, IF INVESTORS ARE NOT FRIGHTENED OFF BY
THE SECURITY SITUATION. GEOLOGICALLY, COLOMBIA FORMS PART
OF THE SAME VAST OVERTHRUST BELT WHICH HAS PRODUCED BIG
(THOUGH NOW SOMEWHAT DEPLETED) OIL DEPOSITS IN VENEZUELA
AND ECUADOR. "THE OIL IS THERE," HE PROCLAIMED, WHILE
ADMITTING THAT IT IS PROBABLY MUCH DEEPER AND HARDER TO
REACH THAN THE OIL FOUND IN COLOMBIA'S NEIGHBORS.

7. (C) CANO LIMON, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A "GIANT FIELD,"
HAS GENERATED USD 20 BILLION FOR COLOMBIA SINCE THE FIRST
WELL WENT INTO OPERATION IN 1983, AND CURRENTLY PROVIDES UP
120,000 BARRELS PER DAY OUT OF COLOMBIA'S 600,000 BARRELS
PER DAY TOTAL PRODUCTION. WHILE THE FIELD IS AGING, IT
SHOULD PRODUCE FOR ANOTHER 15 TO 20 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO
THE REVENUE PROVIDED TO COLOMBIA'S ECONOMY, THE OILFIELD
AND PIPELINE PROVIDE 1000 DIRECT JOBS. CALDERON ALSO
BRIEFED ON THE "SOCIAL ASPECT" OF CANO LIMON. SINCE 1990
USD 30 MILLION HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO PROGRAMS RANGING FROM
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ARAUCA, SUCH AS
ADAPTATION OF DISEASE-RESISTANT BANANAS TO THE AREA, AND
CREATION OF NEW ANIMAL FEEDS, TO SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS
AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES
IN THE CITY OF ARAUCA.

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PIPELINE OVERFLIGHT AND LOOK AT CANO LIMON OPS CENTER AND
SARAVENA BASE

8. (C) FROM ARAUCA THE DELEGATION TRAVELED BY HELICOPTER
TO CANO LIMON, SITE OF THE MAIN OIL PUMPING FACILITY AND
TERMINUS OF THE PIPELINE, AND WAS SHOWN THE PIPELINE
SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER JOINTLY MAINTAINED BY THE
MILITARY AND THE "CRAVO NORTE ASSOCIATION," OCCIDENTAL AND
ECOPETROL'S JOINT VENTURE, TO DEAL WITH GUERRILLA ATTACKS

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(171 IN 2001). CRAVO NORTE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRING
THE PIPELINE WHEN IT IS DAMAGED. THE NATIONAL POLICE AND
THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS, FBI-
EQUIVALENT) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING THE ATTACKS
(WHICH OF COURSE ARE CRIMES).

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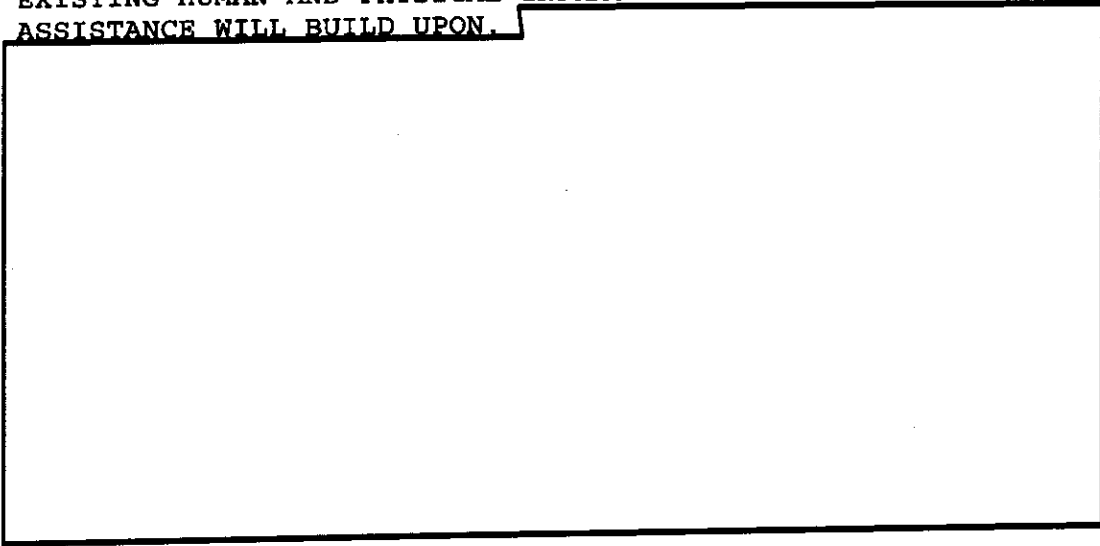
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9. (C) OVERFLYING THE PIPELINE ROUTE TO CANO LIMON AND SARAVENA, THE DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO SEE THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE GUERRILLAS. WHILE THE PIPELINE IS UNDERGROUND, AND THUS NOT VISIBLE, IN NUMEROUS LOCATIONS LARGE STAINS OF SPILLED PETROLEUM MARKING THE SITES OF SPILLS CAUSED BY THE ATTACKS WERE PLAINLY VISIBLE. IN SEVERAL CASES, THESE SITES WERE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM TOWNS, FROM WHICH THE GUERRILLAS HAD EMERGED, PLANTED THEIR CHARGES AND RETURNED.

COMMENT

10. (C) THIS VISIT ALLOWED THE WASHINGTON-BASED PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE AWAY A FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION OF THE CHALLENGES THAT PIPELINE SECURITY IN ARAUCA POSES AND THE EXISTING HUMAN AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ANY USG ASSISTANCE WILL BUILD UPON.



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11. (C) THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED AFTER THE DELEGATION LEFT BOGOTA.

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